

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



## *Uniola paniculata* - sea oats Grass Family (Poaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** Atlantic and Gulf coasts from MD to TX; also Mexico, Cuba, West Indies

### **Recognition:**

- Tall, stout, rhizomatous grass of beaches and sand dunes
- Inflorescence is a large showy panicle with nodding branches
- Spikelets many flowered, strongly flattened laterally, and greenish to eventually tan

**Flowering Time:** June to November

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

### **Wetland Indicator Status:**

FACU – usually occurs in uplands but occasionally found in wetlands

### **Habitat:**

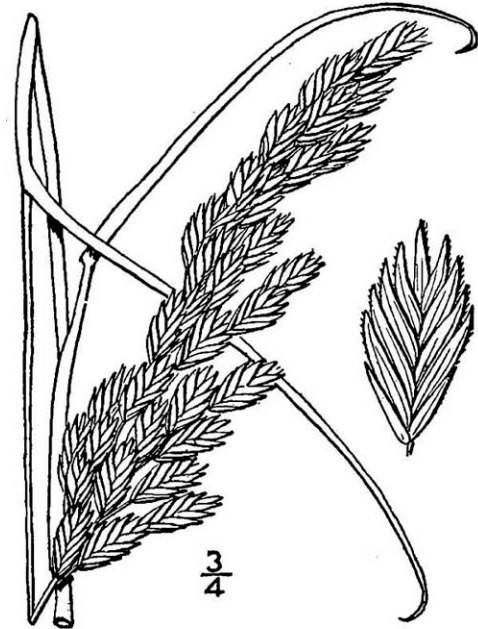
High energy beaches and sand dunes. This plant is extremely beneficial in stabilizing dune habitats where other species cannot initially survive.

### **Threats:**

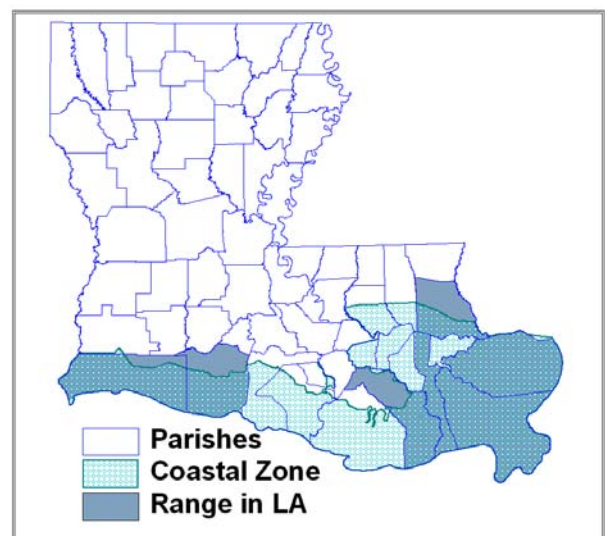
- Shoreline erosion
- Seaside development
- Vehicular traffic on beaches

### **Beneficial Management Practices:**

- Shoreline stabilization
- Protect beaches and sand dunes from human degradation
- Continue to propagate and re-establish colonies on Louisiana beaches



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 1: 249.



**LA River Basins:** Pearl, Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Terrebonne, Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



Larry Allain @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database/  
USGS National Research Center

## **References:**

- Allen, C. M., D. A. Newman, and H. Winters. 2004. Grasses of Louisiana. 3rd ed. Allen's Native Ventures, LLC., Pitkin, LA. 374 pp.
- Correll, D. S., and M. C. Johnston. 1970. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas. Texas Research Foundation, Renner. 1881 pp.
- Duncan, W. H. and M. B. Duncan. 1987. The Smithsonian guide to seaside plants of the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Nelson, G. 2005. East Gulf Coastal Plain Wildflowers. The Globe Pequot Press. Guilford, CT. 263 pp.
- USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.